

CLAIMS

- 5 1. System for determining the position of a transponder, which transmits a signal and moves along a route with at least a measuring station comprising antenna means for receiving said signal at least at two measuring points positioned at the two outer points of a line segment which crosses the course in a perpendicular manner, whereby said measuring station comprises:
- 10 - a first receiver for receiving said signal through said antenna means at the one measuring point and
- a second receiver for receiving said signal through said antenna means at the other measuring point,
- high frequency phase measuring means measuring the phase difference between the
- 15 output signal of the first receiver and the output signal of the second receiver,
- evaluation means which, based on the measured phase difference, determines where the transponder passes said line segment.
2. System according to claim 1, characterized in that the transponder transmits a
- 20 modulated signal, that the first receiver is followed by a first demodulator for demodulating the received signal, that the second receiver is followed by a second demodulator for demodulating the received signal, and that low frequency phase measuring means measure the phase difference between the output signal of the first demodulator and the output signal of the second demodulator.
- 25 3. System according to claim 1 and 2, characterized in that the evaluation means use the output signal of the low frequency phase measuring means for "coarse" position determination whereas the output signal of the high frequency phase measuring means is used for "fine" position determining.
- 30 4. System according to one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that the modulated signal is obtained by amplitude modulation whereby the modulation signal is a pulse

series by means of which the amplitude of the carrier wave is modulated between 0% and 100%.

5. System according to claim 1, characterized in that between both ends of said line
5 segment another N measuring points are realised such that the line segment is divided
by N+2 measuring points into N+1 segments each having a length which is small
enough to realise an unambiguous measurement within said segment, whereby the N+2
measuring points are connected to N+2 receivers, the output of each of said receivers is
connected to a field strength measuring means, the output signals of all field strength
10 measuring means are evaluated in a comparison circuit, which comparison circuit trans-
fers the output signals of those two receivers having together the largest field strength,
to a phase comparator to be mutually compared whereafter the resulting output signal
of the phase comparator controls an evaluation unit.

15 6. System according to one of the preceding claims 1-4, characterized in that the
system comprises an elongated loop antenna consisting of two parallel antenna
conductors extending a short mutual distance and having a length equal to the length of
said segment, which antenna conductors are connected at their ends where the
measuring points are formed.

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7. System according to claim 5, characterized in that the antenna is built as a series
circuit of N+1 small loop antennas each comprising two parallel antenna conductors
extending at short mutual distance of which the ends are interconnected, which loop
antennas are in length direction coupled to each other.

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8. System according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the meas-
urement is repeated a number of times in a row, whereafter the results are interpolated
such that from the results the track can be derived which was followed by the trans-
ponder within said course.